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Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Borough of

Clifton Dartmouth Hardness

DARTMOUTH :

R. CRANFORD & SON LTD., DARTMOUTH.



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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR 1937

*To the Worshipful the Mayor and Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Clifton Dartmouth Hardness.*

Gentlemen,

In accordance with my statutory duties I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report upon the Health of the Inhabitants and the Sanitary Conditions of the Borough. The Report also contains details of the administration of the Factory and Workshops Acts, 1901, as required by the Secretary of State for the Home Department.

The figures used in this report for the estimated rates are those of the Registrar General's estimates of the Population to the middle of the year 1936.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area in acres—1925.

Population census in 1931—6707.

Estimated population, 1937—5911.

Number of inhabited houses, about 1532.

Rateable value—£48,072.

Sum represented by 1d. rate—£187 14s. 0d.

Public debt—£76,730.

Dartmouth is a seaport town with a population representative of all classes. The principal industries are Philip and Son's Shipbuilding and Engineering Works, and the Channel Coaling Co.'s Bunkering business. A certain amount of fishing is engaged in. The Royal Naval College is situated within the boundary of the Borough, and most of its staff, with their families, live in the town.

There is an agricultural area outside the town, in which are a number of farms and a small rural population.

A number of visitors stay in the town during the summer.

Vital Statistics.

| | M | F | | |
|--------------|----|----|--|-------|
| Live Births | 4 | 15 | } Birth Rate per 1000 of estimated population | 12.50 |
| Legitimate | | | | |
| Illegitimate | 1 | 1 | | |
| Still Births | 3 | 1 | Rate per 1000 total (live and Still Births) | |
| | | | | 54.05 |
| Deaths | 38 | 36 | Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated population | |

Deaths from puerperal causes:

| | Deaths | |
|------------------------|---------|----------------------------|
| Puerperal Sepsis | 0 | Rate per 1000 total (Live) |
| Other Puerperal Causes | 0 | and Still Berths) |
| | <hr/> 0 | <hr/> 00 |

Death Rate of Infants under one year:

| | |
|--|-------|
| All Infants per 1000 Live Births | 54.05 |
| Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate Live Births | 85.10 |
| Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate Live Births | 00 |

Deaths from Cancer—1

„ Measles—0

„ Whooping Cough—0

„ Diarrhœa (under 2 years)—0

No excessive mortality or mortality from any noteworthy cause occurred.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

The Public Health Officers of the Council are:—
William H. Green, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., London. Part time M.O.H. and Medical Officer Maternity and Child Welfare.

William H. Jefford, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Sanitary Inspector (whole time).

LABORATORY FACILITIES are provided by the County Council at Exeter and by the Torbay Hospital at Torquay.

Ambulance Facilities.

A hand Ambulance is available for cases in Dartmouth to be removed to the Local Hospital, but a Motor Ambulance comes from Torquay for those cases which are removed to Torbay Hospital. This is an unsatisfactory state of affairs. Agitation has been going on for the provision of a local Motor Ambulance, but so far enough money has not been collected.

Nursing Facilities.

A District Nurse is provided by the Local Committee. She is supported by voluntary contributions and small payments. She does not attend midwifery cases nor infectious cases. Private trained nurses live in the town and are made use of by the less impecunious.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

There is a certified Midwife appointed for the district and under the jurisdiction of the County Council and Queen's Nursing Association. There is also another certified midwife practising in the Town.

Provision is made at the Cottage Hospital for admission of obstetrical emergencies. Such cases can also be admitted to the Torbay Hospital.

The Dartmouth Hospital Committee has lately decided to admit women maternity cases to the Hospital no longer. Consequently there are no instructional facilities for such cases.

There is a Maternity and Infant Welfare Centre in the Town, a report on which is appended.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supplies.

No new water supplies have been taken in during the last 12 months ending 31st December, 1937.

The present supply varies in quality but on the whole can be taken to be fairly satisfactory.

The quantity is satisfactory except for 3 months during the year, when strict economy in the use of water has to be enforced. During the past year it was necessary to restrict the use of water practically during the whole of the summer.

Thirty-three samples of water were taken during the year; 18 were satisfactory, 8 were doubtful; 7 were unsatisfactory. The new water scheme will probably be started in 1938.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The Town is provided with sufficient sewers and the natural gradients are such that there is sufficient fall to cause good flushing. Ventilation is provided for by a number of 6in. ventilation shafts at the higher parts. The sewerage is carried direct into the River Dart by several separate sewers, the outfalls of which are below low water mark. The closet accommodation of the town is of the water carriage type and there are a few earth closets at the Farms and Cottages outside the town. There has been great improvement during the past years by increasing the number of w.c.'s to the tenements. There has been no extension or improvements during the year other than a 9in. sewer which has been laid from Redwalls Cross Roads to the Townstal Housing Estate, and a new 15in. and 9in. sewer laid on the Townstal Estate.

Rivers and Streams.

There is very little pollution of rivers or streams in the area. The River Dart being a large tidal estuary is not much opportunity for pollution; although the sewerage from the Town is discharged into it untreated, the strong ebb tide carries it all out to sea.

Public Cleansing.

The house refuse is removed in the same manner as in past years, the occupiers placing the refuse in a regulation dustbin at the door of the house, which is collected several times a week in carts and carried through the Town to Coombe, and cast upon Coombe Mud and covered with earth (controlled tippings). A daily collection is also made from the Royal Naval College. The approximate number of tons collected during the year was 1,470. There is very little difficulty, and very few complaints as to the system, which works well.

The householders have now fallen in line with the suggestion thrown out year after year, and by order are using the regulation dust bin which is a more clean and sanitary method. These are under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

Six Notices under Section 37 of the Dartmouth Corporation Act, 1929, were served during the year.

During 1937, owing to the Coombe Tip being filled in, a new piece of land was acquired from the Kingsbridge R.D.C. for a new tip. This is situated about a mile away from the Town in an area known as the Ridges.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Bakehouses.

There are 10 in the area. 81 inspections have been made. General Condition—good.

Dairies and Cowsheds.

There are 28 Dairies and 13 Cowsheds registered. Dairies have been inspected 119 times and Cowsheds 28 times. Number of Cowsheds with impervious floors, 11; unsatisfactory drainage, 0; bad lighting, 0; bad ventilation, 0; unsatisfactory water supply, 0.

Some Milkshops are general shops where other food is

sold, and although the milk department is placed in a separate part of the shop there is always the possibility of any milk retained in the pans being contaminated, although the greater portion of the milk is distributed to the different customers' houses as soon as it comes from the farm.

The Milkshops are inspected at frequent intervals.

Slaughterhouses.

There are 2 licensed slaughterhouses and a public abattoir.

They are all situated on Jawbones Hill in close proximity to each other. These places are under supervision of the Meat Inspector. The water supply to the slaughterhouses is rain water stored in large tanks. The well water is not now used as the windmill has been out of action for a long time. Further details are in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Rag Flock Acts, 1911 and 1928.

There are 2 premises on which rag flock is used and sold. These are in a satisfactory condition and frequently inspected.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|---|
| (a) Council Houses Infected | ... | ... | ... | 0 |
| (b) Other Houses Infected | ... | ... | ... | 9 |
| Disinfected | ... | ... | ... | 9 |

METHODS EMPLOYED.

- (a) Zaldicide Vermicide at intervals of seven days in houses.
- (b) No measures are taken for disinfecting furniture due for removal.
- (c) Propaganda and personal explanation is given to tenants of infected houses.

Schools.

There are 5 Public Schools in the Town; 3 Council Schools, 1 Roman Catholic School and 1 Secondary School. They have all been inspected during the year. There are also 4 private schools.

Cases of Children staying away from school owing to supposed infectious disease are promptly reported to me.

Contacts with infectious cases are kept away for the necessary period.

Drainage systems of these schools have been inspected during the year. Water supply is in all cases good.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk.

Milk supply. The quality of the milk supplied to the Borough is, on the whole, very good, and is brought into the town from the adjoining farms to the milk sellers who deliver it to the customers from door to door by cans or direct into the milk jugs and by sealed bottles (Certified Milk).

All milk sellers are registered and the milkshops are inspected at frequent intervals.

134 samples of milk were sent to the Bacteriological Laboratory for examination. Tubercle bacilli were found in none of 27 samples taken. The general quality of the milk was fair. 66 samples failed in the Methylene Blue Test, i.e., showed evidence of undue contamination from microbes derived from manure, whilst 68 passed. Another dairyman has been licensed to sell certified milk. There are now three who sell it in the town. The sampling Officer is the Sanitary Inspector.

13 samples of milk were also taken from the various schools in the Borough 80 per cent. passed.

Meat.

The arrangements for the inspection of meat at the time of slaughter is, for the Sanitary Inspector to attend at the Slaughter Houses on receiving notice from the butchers. The conditions of the regulations are now being carried out in a far better manner than before. Shops and vehicles are clean and much better than they were. Any meat diseased or condemned is generally voluntarily surrendered, a certificate given, and the meat destroyed at the Refuse Tip. Systematic inspection of shops and food stores is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector, who makes a detailed report as the Meat Inspector.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

| | Cattle excluding Cows | Cows | Calves | Sheep & Lambs | Pigs |
|--|-----------------------------|------|--------|------------------|------|
| No. Killed ... | 273 | -- | 119 | 1352 | 695 |
| No. Inspected ... | 261 | — | 115 | 1241 | 643 |
| All Diseases except Tuberculosis ... | — | — | — | 2 | 1 |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ... | 36 | — | — | 63 | 15 |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ... | 13.8% | — | — | 5.08% | 2.3% |
| Tuberculosis only Whole Carcases condemned | — | — | — | — | — |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ... | 4 | — | — | — | — |
| Percentage of the number Inspected affected with Tuberculosis ... | 1.5% | — | — | — | 7.1% |

Sale of Food and Drugs Act.

This is supervised by the Sergeant of Police, who takes samples and submits them to the Public Analyst.

The following samples were taken during 1937:—New Milk, 14; Self Raising Flour, 1; Plain Flour, 1; White Pepper, 1; Margarine, 1; Ground Ginger, 1; Ground Rice, 1; Granulated Sugar, 1; Malt Vinegar, 1; Seed Tapioca, 1; Moist Sugar, 1; Baking Powder, 1;

In 23 cases certificates were received from the Analyst describing the articles as genuine. In the other 2 cases, one of which was new milk, they were found not genuine, in the first instance. The milk was adulterated with water, and the vendor was fined, and in the other instance, was also new milk, was found to be deficient in fat. The vendor was cautioned in this case.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

Housing Conditions.

1. General Observations as to Housing Conditions.

There are 1,539 inhabited houses in the Borough. The prevailing forms of defects are:—

- (i.) Ground dampness (on the low level).
- (ii.) Back to back (among the oldest type of houses).
- (iii.) Old Roofs.

2. Sufficiency of supply of Houses.

- (a) Extent of shortage. About 100; 74 being in course of erection.
- (b) Population 1936—5911. Census population 1931, 6707.
- (c) Difficulty of providing suitable sites for new houses. There are no sites available on the low level where most of the workers are now living to be within easy call of their employment. There are, however, available sites on the higher ground, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the riverside.

3. Overcrowding.

- (a) There is no serious overcrowding, except in the slum areas. These are dealt with as they occur. The overcrowding consists chiefly in householders dividing bedrooms up for two or three lodgers in the same sleeping room, taking in as many lodgers as possible. This occurs chiefly in the holiday season. The building of more houses would not obviate this.
- (b) Causes due to inability to pay more than 3s. to 4s. per week rent.

- (c) The Council has under the provisions of the Housing Act, 1936, caused an inspection to be made by the Sanitary Inspector, with a view to ascertaining what dwellinghouses in the Borough are overcrowded.

A report has been approved by the Council and submitted to the Ministry of Health in the prescribed form.

The Council is now proceeding with the erection of houses for occupation by persons displaced by Clearance Orders and overcrowding. The completion of 74 houses is expected by June, 1938.

4. Slum Clearance.

During 1937 work has been progressing towards the clearance of the work of the Dartmouth slums.

Nine areas have been inspected by me and an official representation made that the houses therein are unfit for human habitation.

There areas are:—1, Undercliffe; 2, Coombe Road; 3, Clarence Street; 4, Zion Slip; 5, St. Saviour's Court and Anzac Square; 6, Higher Street; 7, Mansion House Street and Hardy's Court; 8, Drake's Passage; and 9, Crowther's Hill. Sixty-one houses are involved.

One of these areas has been demolished at time of going to press, and several closed, and the inhabitants gradually rehoused.

5. Bye-Laws relating to Houses, to Houses let in Lodgings, and to Tents, Vans, Shed.

Bye-Laws. a—New Streets and Buildings 1927, with a supplement to same 1931.

b—Houses let in lodgings. None.

c—Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.—None.

d—Dartmouth Corporation Act, 1928.

The water supply to the houses is by different sources of supply, *i.e.*, Corporation, St. Petrox Feoffees, conduits and private supplies. There is one cottage on the Boundary line that has no water supply, except that obtainable from a farm $\frac{1}{4}$ mile distant, Higher Swannaton Farm, and rain water from the catchment area of the roof (Black House, Swannaton Lane).

I—Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year 1937.

- 1 [a] Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health and Housing Acts 180

| | | |
|--|--|-----|
| [b] | Number of Inspections made for the purpose | 215 |
| 2 [a] | Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 | 0 |
| [b] | Number of inspections made for the purpose | 0 |
| 3 | Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | 8 |
| 4 | Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | 27 |
| II— <i>Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices—</i> | | |
| | Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers | 177 |
| III— <i>Action under Statutory Powers during the year. A—Proceedings under Section 9, 10, 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.</i> | | |
| 1 | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | 35 |
| 2 | Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices— | |
| [a] | By owners (undergoing repairs) | 24 |
| [b] | By Local Authority in default of owners | 0 |
| <i>B—Proceedings under the Public Health Acts.</i> | | |
| 1 | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | 21 |
| 2 | Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices— | |
| [a] | By owners | 21 |
| [b] | By Local Authority in default of owners | 0 |
| <i>C—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1936.</i> | | |
| 1 | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | 4 |
| 2 | Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | 3 |
| <i>D—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.</i> | | |
| 1 | Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | 4 |
| 2 | Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | 0 |

Housing Act, 1936—Overcrowding.

| | | |
|-------|--|----|
| 1 [a] | Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year | 15 |
| 2 | Number of families dwelling therein | 15 |
| 3 | Number of persons dwelling therein | 81 |
| [b] | Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during year | 0 |
| 1 [c] | Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during year ... | 5 |
| 2 | Number of persons concerned | 33 |
| [d] | Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded | 0 |

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS & WORKPLACES

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

| | No. of Inspec- tions | No. of Written Notices | No. of Prosecu- tions |
|--|----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Factories (including Factory Laundries) | 35 | 0 | 0 |
| Workshops (including Workshop Laundries) | 19 | 0 | 0 |
| Workplaces other than Outworkers' Premises | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| | <u>59</u> | <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> |

DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS & WORKPLACES

| Particulars | No. of Defects | | | Number of Prosecutions |
|---|----------------|----------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| | Found | Remedied | Referred to Inspector | |
| Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:— | | | | 0 |
| Want of Cleanliness | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Want of Ventilation | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Overcrowding | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Want of Drainage of Floors | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Other Nuisances | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Sanitary Accommodation { insufficient | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| { unsuitable or defective | ... | ... | ... | 0 |
| { not separate for sexes | 0 | ... | ... | 0 |
| Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts:— | | | | |
| Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s101) | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Other Offences | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| (excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the sections mentioned in the schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Total | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

The working of the Factory Acts in Dartmouth during the year 1937, has been very satisfactory, the number of factories being limited and the work small as compared with former years. The requirements of the Acts with regard to the washing and sanitary conveniences, the display of the Abstract of the Factory and Workshops Acts and other required notices are carried out, and those who are required to do so provide First Aid Dressing Boxes. The number of defects found have been very small as shown in the returns.

Infectious Diseases.

There has been little infectious disease in the Borough during 1937.

There has been no Diphtheria, Cerebro-Spinal Fever, Puerperal Fever or Pyrexia.

During the late months of the year a mild epidemic of Enteritis occurred. None of the cases was serious.

Cases of Scarlet Fever are visited at home in all suitable cases and where necessary Anti-Toxin is given. Influenza cases were all mild.

Disinfection.

There is a Steam Disinfector which has been used during the year for the disinfection of clothing and bedding after Infectious Cases and Tuberculosis. Infected premises are usually fumigated with Formalin. Disinfectants are also issued where required.

Part IV. of the Public Health Act, 1925 (Verminous Premises and Persons) has been adopted.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

| Disease | Total cases notified | Cases admitted to Hosp. | Total deaths |
|--|-------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Small Pox | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Scarlet Fever | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Diphtheria | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Puerperal Fever | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Pneumonia | 4 | 2 | 0 |
| Erysipelas | 0 | 0 | 0 |

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1937.

Prevention of Blindness.

No action has been taken under Section 66 of the P.H.A., 1925, nor under Section 176 of P.H.A., 1936.

Tuberculosis.

It has not been found necessary to take any action under the P.H. Regulations, 1925, neither under Section 62 of P.H.A., 1925, nor under Section 172 of P.H.A., 1936.

| Age Periods | | | New Cases | | | | Deaths | | | |
|----------------|-----|-----|-------------|---|-----------------|---|-------------|---|-----------------|---|
| | | | Respiratory | | Non-Respiratory | | Respiratory | | Non-Respiratory | |
| | | | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F |
| 0 | ... | ... | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 1 | ... | ... | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 5 | ... | ... | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 15 | ... | ... | - | 4 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 25 | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 35 | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 45 | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 55 | ... | ... | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 65 and upwards | ... | ... | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Totals | ... | ... | 4 | 7 | - | - | - | - | - | - |

Vaccination.

The number of vaccinations done in the Borough during the year by the Public Vaccinator and other Practitioners are as follows:—

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Vaccinated | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 20 |
| Insusceptible | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 |
| Conscientious objectors | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 48 |
| Died unvaccinated | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Postponed as unfit | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Not yet dealt with | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 |
| Removed from district | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |

No revaccinations have been done by the Medical Officer of Health under the (Small Pox Prevention) Regulations, 1927.

Report of the Dartmouth Infant Welfare Centre.

No. of times opened—45.

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--------|------|
| Total attendance of Mothers | ... | 1452 |
| „ „ Toddlers | ... | 789 |
| „ „ Infants | ... | 894 |
| Number on books | ... .. | 127 |

This again shows a large increase on last year.

2 Children were sent to Dartmouth Hospital, 2 to the Orthopædic Clinic, and 2 were sent to the School Oculist.

My thanks are due to the ready helpers of the Welfare Centre, whether voluntary or otherwise.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. GREEN,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (Lond).

Medical Officer of Health and

Medical Officer to the Infant Welfare Centre.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen, and Councillors,

Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1937.

Housing Inspection.

The working class houses especially those on the low level in the Borough are a very difficult problem, most of them are occupied by riverside workers and many of them have passed beyond their usefulness as dwelling houses. Where possible, to give them a little longer lease of life, notices under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936 have been served on the owners to carry out necessary repair. Notices under the Public Health Acts have also been served on the owners of dwelling houses, etc., where nuisances have been discovered during the inspection of the district.

The nine Clearance Areas, which were the subject of a Ministry of Health Inquiry held at Dartmouth on the 5th October, 1937, have all been confirmed, with slight modifications, and at the time of going to press the re-housing of the persons displaced is progressing satisfactorily.

The overcrowded families in the Borough are being dealt with in the same manner as the Clearance Areas, some of the families that were overcrowded when the survey was carried out in 1936 have either left the Town or moved into larger premises, the remainder are being housed at the Townstal Housing Scheme.

During the year four working class dwelling-houses have been closed as unfit for human habitation under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936, and four working class houses have been dealt with by demolition Orders under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936.

There are many old houses and ancient buildings of the working class type and the absence of any Byelaws dealing with existing buildings makes it very difficult to create a suitable standard of fitness. Under Section 6 of the Housing Act, 1936, the Town Council have power to make Byelaws with respect to houses which are occupied or are of a type suitable for occupation by persons of the working classes.

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| No. of houses inspected | 215 |
| „ „ informal notices | 180 |
| „ „ Statutory notices | 7 |
| „ „ Closing Orders | 4 |
| „ „ Demolition Orders | 4 |

There are approximately 50 new houses required for displaced persons from clearance areas and 15 for those families which require alternative accommodation due to overcrowding.

Summary of Repair Work under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936, and Section 39-41 of the Public Health Acts, 1936.

- 1 Old roof repaired.
- 2 New roof
- 3 Eaves gutter repaired.
- 4 Downpipes repaired.
- 5 Defective drains relaid.
- 6 Defective drains repaired.
- 7 Inspection chamber provided on old drainage system.
- 8 Defective w.c. pans renewed.
- 9 Defective w.c. pans repaired.
- 10 D. Trap replaced by stoneware gullies of a suitable type.
- 11 Defective yards, paved, drained and repaired.
- 12 Windows, floors, woodwork, fireplaces and cooking stoves repaired.

- 13 Wherever possible, ventilated food stores provided.

Regulation Dustbins.

During the year 3 notices have been served on owners of premises to provide a regulation dustbin under Section 37 of the Dartmouth Corporation Act, 1928, these notices were all complied with, in accordance with the provisions contained in the notices.

Disinfection.

Thirteen premises have been disinfected, rooms fumigated, and many articles of bedding, furniture, etc., from verminous premises have been destroyed. There have also been articles of bedding, etc., disinfected (not due to infectious disease) which have been charged for by the Corporation, such as: moths, insects, etc.

The following* articles have been disinfected in the Council's steam disinfector:—

65 Blankets, 50 Bolsters and Pillows, Clothing (ladies and gentlemen's) 4, 12 Quilts, 9 Sheets, 15 Mattresses, 12 Sundries. Total 162.

Articles destroyed by consent of owners:—4 Bolsters and Pillows, 2 lots Clothing, 2 Quilts, 2 Sheets, 4 Mattresses, 3 Sundries. Total 17.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

No. of houses disinfested:

(a) Council houses—nil.

(b) Other houses—9 were found to be infested with bugs, and all were satisfactorily disinfested.

Treatment of room, bedding, furniture, etc., with Zaldicide at intervals of 7 days until free of this vermin.

Belongings of tenants are inspected by the Sanitary Inspector and treated with Zaldicide or destroyed.

This work is carried out by the Public Health Department.

The Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector explain to individual tenants their responsibility of assisting to eradicate this vermin and reporting any appearance or reappearance to the Public Health Department.

Food Inspection—Shops and Stores.

All shops, preparing rooms and stores were inspected periodically during the year and I am pleased to report that very little cause for complaint has been experienced. The various traders in the Borough realise their responsibility to the community and take every precaution to prevent contamination of the various commodities; their premises at the time of inspection were in a cleanly state.

Meat Inspection.

Butchers' shops and preparing rooms are inspected occasionally. I have had to condemn small quantities of meat which have become decomposed (particularly over week-ends), but most of the butchers now have refrigeration apparatus to overcome this difficulty.

Slaughterhouses and Slaughtering.

All butchers notify me on a specially printed post-card of their intention to slaughter food animals and the Meat Regulations of 1924 have been complied with.

There are two Private Slaughterhouses and the Dartmouth Corporation's Public Abattoirs; all are situated on Jawbones Hill about 3 miles by road, these buildings are kept in a cleanly state consistent with the work carried on in them. The water supply for all the slaughterhouses is dependent on the catchment areas of the buildings and in very dry weather some water has to be taken to the slaughterhouses from the main supplies.

Slaughtermen's Licences.

All slaughtermen killing food animals within the Borough are licenced and all food animals are humanely stunned by a mechanically operated instrument (except those killed by Mohammedans from Troopships) prior to being bled. I have not had any cause for complaint during the year, the men give me every assistance possible during the inspection of the carcasses that are being dressed.

The undermentioned carcasses and food stuffs have been condemned, voluntarily surrendered and destroyed (carcasses are destroyed by Judicial Order):—

1 Pig, 2 Sheep.

The total weight of condemned meat and foodstuffs during the year is:—

| | | |
|------------------------|--------|------------|
| By voluntary surrender | ... .. | 1701½ lbs. |
| By Judicial Order | ... .. | 239 .. |
| | | <hr/> |
| | | 1940½ lbs. |

During the year 1937, I have examined 2,439 carcasses and made 480 visits to the slaughterhouses and received 422 notices of killings.

Nature of Diseases.

HOME-KILLED BULLOCKS.

Tuberculosis (localised), Liver Fluke, Necrosis, Cirrhosis, Multiple Abscess, Angioma, Tumors.

HOME-KILLED PIGS.

Tuberculosis, Emaciation, Cirrhosis,

HOME-KILLED SHEEP AND LAMBS.

Coccidiosis, Bladder Cysts, Emaciation, Capsulated Tumours, Fluke, Oedema.

IMPORTED BEEF.

Bone-taint, decomposition, unsound, unwholesome.

IMPORTED MUTTON AND LAMB.

Unsound, unwholesome, decomposition.

VARIOUS ARTICLES OF CANNED FOOD, etc.

Unsound, unwholesome and decomposition.

TUBERCULOSIS ORDER OF 1925.

Whenever a case of generalised tuberculosis is found in cows on post-mortem examination the details are reported to the County Medical Officer of Health for him to follow up the matter under the Tuberculosis Order of 1925.

Sale of Foods and Drugs Acts.

I have not taken any samples of food under the above Acts because the Police Sergeant is the Devon County Council's Inspector and taken samples of various kinds of food for submission to the Public Analyst for his examination and report. He (the Police Sergeant) has submitted to the Medical Officer of Health for the Borough his report of the samples taken,

By the courtesy of Police Sergeant William Abrahams the County Inspector for the Sale of Foods and Drugs in the Borough the undermentioned report is submitted:—

Dartmouth, 5th March, 1938.

Dear Sirs,

re Samples taken and result of Analysis.

I beg to report for your information that during the year ended the 31st December, 1937, I have taken the undermentioned 25 samples in the Borough of Dartmouth, under the Food and Drugs Acts, viz.:—

| | | |
|-----------------------|--------|-------------|
| New Milk | ... .. | 14 Samples. |
| Self Raising Flour | ... .. | 1 „ |
| Plain Flour | ... .. | 1 „ |
| White Pepper (loose) | ... .. | 1 „ |
| Margarine | ... .. | 1 „ |
| Ground Ginger | ... .. | 1 „ |
| Ground Rice | ... .. | 1 „ |
| Granulated Sugar | ... .. | 1 „ |
| Malt Vinegar | ... .. | 1 „ |
| Seed Tapioca | ... .. | 1 „ |
| Moist Sugar | ... .. | 1 „ |
| Baking Powder (loose) | ... .. | 1 „ |

Total 25 Samples.

I forwarded a portion of each sample by registered post to the Public Analyst at Exeter, and in 23 of the cases I received certificates describing the articles as being genuine. Of the other two cases, one a sample of New Milk was adulterated with 10p.c. of added water, the vendor was summoned and fined £8 and 10s. 6d. Analyst's fee. The other case was also New Milk and was described as being deficient in fat to extent of 6p.c. The vendor in this case was cautioned by the Police.

With the exception of these two samples, the samples of New Milk taken by me have been very good.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

W. ABRAHAMS,

Sergt. 251.

Inspector Food and Drug Acts.

Bakehouses.

There are 10 bakehouses in the Borough and 49 visits of inspection have been made during the year, most of them have power machinery installed and therefore come within the jurisdiction of the Factory Inspector. These premises are in a good state of repair and clean and the preparation of this food is carried out under hygienic methods. I have not had any cause for complaint at the time of my inspection.

Milk—Bacteriological Examination.

During the year 1937, 134 samples of milk have been taken for bacteriological examination (cleanliness) of this number 27 were examined for tuberculosis and all were reported negative. These samples are examined at the Devon County Council's laboratory and the reports from Dr. McEwan, the County Bacteriologist, show that 66 passed the tests for clean milk (Methylene Blue) and 68 failed, 31 repeat samples from producers whose milk samples have failed in the tests have been taken and invariably the repeat samples have passed the tests.

13 samples of milk were also taken (included in the above number) from the various schools in the Borough, of which 80 p.c. passed the tests and 20 p.c. failed.

Of the 27 samples examined for Tuberculosis 23 were reported as negative and 4 inconclusive, the guinea pigs having died within 8 weeks from natural causes (incurrent disease).

| Date | Nos. tested for Clean- liness (M.B.) | Passed | Failed | Nos. tested for Tuberculosis | Repeats | Schools | Accre- dited | Certi- fied. |
|-------|--|--------|--------|------------------------------------|---------|---------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Jan. | 11 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| Feb. | 9 | 6 | 3 | 2 (inc.) | 1 | — | 1 | — |
| Mar. | 13 | 11 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 1 | — |
| Apr. | 11 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 1 | — | 2 | 1 |
| May | 10 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 | — |
| June | 11 | 2 | 9 | 3 | 2 | 1 | — | 1 |
| July | 12 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 7 | 2 | — | — |
| Aug. | 13 | 3 | 10 | 2 | 3 | — | 6 | — |
| Sept. | 13 | 4 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 2 | — | 1 |
| Oct. | 11 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 2 | — |
| Nov. | 12 | 9 | 3 | 2 (inc.) | 2 | 2 | 1 | — |
| Dec. | 8 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 1 | — | — | — |
| | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | 134 | 66 | 68 | 27 | 31 | 13 | 13 | 3 |

EXPLOSIVE, SHOPS, PETROLEUM.

| | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|---|--|
| i. Store Licensed for mixed explosives | 0 | 0 | 1 | W. H. Jefford. Sanitary Inspector, Shops, Petroleum Inspector. |
| 1. Explosives for private use | 0 | 0 | 1 | |
| 2. Mixed Explosives | 7 | 29 | 1 | |
| ii. Number of Shops | 161 | 299 | 1 | |
| iii. Licensed Premises: - | | | | |
| 1. Petroleum Spirit | 14 | 42 | 1 | |
| 2. Calcium Carbide | 1 | 4 | 1 | |

Complaints.

Complaints that come within the provisions of the Public Health Act, Housing Acts, Dartmouth Corporation Act and the Local Byelaws, are promptly dealt with by the statutory and informal notices which these enactments provide.

Conclusion.

In concluding my report I wish to thank His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors for appointing me as their delegate to attend the Annual Conference of the Sanitary Inspectors Association held at Brighton at which many subjects on Public Health, Housing, Food supplies, etc., were debated. I also wish to thank the Medical Officer of Health and my colleagues of the Corporation for their co-operation and assistance during the year.

I am, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. H. JEFFORD,

Sanitary Inspector.

